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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 428
By West

A RESOLUTION to request the Tennessee Historical Commission to add certain stone walls to the list of protected historic sites and artifacts.

WHEREAS, the historic stone walls of Tennessee, particularly those in the middle grand division, are in danger of loss to road projects, neglect, and pilferage by landscapers; and

WHEREAS, an editor of *Southern Living* magazine has called the dry stacked stone walls of Nashville and Middle Tennessee signatures of the area; and

WHEREAS, historians state that the stone walls were built by slaves, Irish immigrants, wealthy landowners and by the Works Progress Administration; and

WHEREAS, this problem is being addressed in such diverse areas as New England, California, and Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County, Kentucky, having lost 25 percent of the stone walls around its horse farms and family farms between 1967 and 1990, now requires the moving and rebuilding of old stone walls threatened by development; and

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WHEREAS, New Hampshire and Rhode Island also protect especially beautiful or historic walls by requiring rebuilding, and California is moving to have some of its walls placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, such stone walls are visible reminders of the history of this state, marking the bounds of old, historic properties and having served as battle lines for civil war engagements; and

WHEREAS, they are often expressions of the skill and artistry of those early Tennesseans, who built beauty into what might be utilitarian structures; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the state of Tennessee act to preserve its historic heritage before more is lost or irreparably damaged; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Tennessee Historical Commission is requested to develop criteria for the protection and preservation of certain stone walls within this state, to include standards for moving and rebuilding such walls when other alternatives are not available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation and sent to the Tennessee Historical Commission with this final clause omitted from such copy.